

PRIVATE GEORGE DILBOY CHARGED MACHINE GUN RIGHT THROUGH FIRE



"He rushed down the embankment, with bayonet fixed."

Third of the Series of Hero
Stories Cabled by
Pershing.

By A. E. GELDHOP.
N. E. A. Washington Bureau, 1128, 1134
Munsey Bldg., Washington, D. C.
Private George Dilboy, of Boston, a
member of Company H, 103d Infantry,
was one of the heroes of the Marne
who gave his life for his country in the
heart of the great allied offensive that
won the war.

His regiment was part of the Twen-
ty-sixth division, which took part in
the great drive through Belleau Wood
which began on July 18. On the first
day of the fight Private Dilboy made a
name for himself that will live in
American history.

A railroad embankment along a lit-
tle stream near the town of Belleau
was the objective of Dilboy's platoon.
You remember how overwhelmingly
the doughboys carried everything be-
fore them. Dilboy's platoon reached
the embankment, and there halted.

Young Dilboy was selected by his
platoon leader to accompany him on
a reconnoitering expedition over the
ground beyond the railroad. They
climbed the embankment, but no soon-
er had their heads appeared over the
top than a German machine gun post-
ed 100 yards away opened up on them.

Yelling defiance at the Hun, Dilboy
stood up on the railroad track, exposed
to the view of the Germans, and open-
ed fire on them with his rifle, while
the bullets rang against the rails be-
neath his feet.

Apparently, however, his fire had no
effect on the Hun machine gun crew.
"I'll get 'em, Sergeant," he yelled to
his platoon commander, and, with his
bayonet fixed, paying no more atten-
tion to the bullets flying about him
than as if they were hailstones, he
rushed down the embankment and
charged ahead through a wheat field
toward the gun emplacement.

For 75 yards Dilboy dashed ahead
unhurt. Then a piece of shrapnel
struck him in the right leg just above
the knee, nearly severing the leg. At
the same time several bullets lodged
in various parts of the body.

The brave soldier dropped and
stretched out on his stomach, but,
"with undaunted courage," to use Gen-
eral Pershing's own words, he kept up
a continual stream of bullets into the
German position with his rifle. Ly-
ing there in the wheat field, this seri-
ously wounded hero killed two of the
enemy and drove the rest of the gun
crew off. As the Germans fled Dil-
boy's companions came to his relief
and bore him to a base hospital, where
he died of his wounds.



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